

THOMAS G. TANCREDO

6TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0606**

November 29, 2006

The Honorable Jeb Bush  
Governor  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor Bush,

I certainly understand and appreciate your need and desire to create the illusion of Miami as a multiethnic "All American" city. I can also appreciate that Miami's schools graduate many outstanding students and that the cultural and ethnic diversity of the city offers many advantages to its residents. However, it is neither naïve nor insulting to call attention to a real problem that cannot be easily dismissed through politically correct happy talk.

You are understandably proud of the academic achievements of some of the students in Miami's high schools. Unfortunately, Miami-Dade School District's 45% graduation rate tells us that the majority of Miami's new arrivals have not yet assimilated this culture of academic excellence.

The tolerance of cultural diversity in a city or a nation is admirable up to a point, but when diversity is worshipped to the detriment of assimilation, it becomes a serious problem that undermines the civic culture that forms the basis for our democratic institutions and the rule of law.

Florida, like America itself, attracts people from many places, and immigrants always bring diverse cultures, races, and religious beliefs to our shores. It is precisely because of these diverse origins, cultures and languages that Florida and America depend on a few things to hold us together. One of the most important things that contributes to cohesion and not fragmentation is the English language, and the evidence suggests that this language is something that fewer and fewer Miamians share. Without a common language, how do we share or build a common "community"?

Unfortunately, fewer and fewer Miamians think of themselves as Americans. This fact was noted recently by Lisandro Perez who was identified in a TIME magazine article as "a Cuban-born immigrant and head of the Cuban Research Institute at Florida International University." He was quoted as extolling the virtue of Miami as a city where "there is no pressure to be an

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

1130 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
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FAX: (202) 226-4623

DISTRICT OFFICE:

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American." By the way, you should also pick up a copy of this week's TIME in which Miami is described as a "corrupt, exorbitant mess" where locals are fleeing in droves. I expect that the editor of TIME will receive a defensive missive from you in response to their report.


The current TIME magazine story also suggests that all of Miami's population growth since 2000 has been from immigration from outside the country, not from other parts of our country. Is TIME magazine wrong in saying that since 2000, Miami has lost a net 20,000 residents each year and that Miami's growth is dependent entirely on foreign immigration, both legal and illegal?

Do you not worry that Miami's "sanctuary city" rules serve as a magnet for illegal aliens and undercut the state's otherwise sound law enforcement policies? Do you worry that a recent random community survey on "Miami values" found that *corruption* was listed as the number one "value" by residents?

Governor with all due respect, I have simply said something most people -- even in Florida if our calls and emails are a measurement of sentiment -- believe is true. I have no doubt that people of wealth can still lead a comfortable and pleasant life in Miami, but ask yourself why ordinary middle class citizens are leaving in such high numbers.

As elected officials, we should encourage the discussion of this issue rather than castigate those who attempt to bring it to light.

Sincerely,



Tom Tancredo  
Member of Congress